REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 18 with claims 17 and 18 being withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I without traverse.

With regard to the rejection of the indicated claims as indefinite in Official Action paragraph 6, the above amendment clarifies the rejected terminology in a self-explanatory manner.

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 9, and 12 to 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over EP 0499206 A2.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Novelty:

The ethylenically unsaturated monomer used in EP '206 is a compound having an electron-withdrawing group such as carboxylate ester residues, ketone residues, cyano, carbamoyl, sulfone residues and sulfonate ester residues (see page 4, lines 1 to 3). On the other hand, the alkenyl-group containing compound of the present invention is an unsaturated hydrocarbon compound having no electron-withdrawing groups. In this regard, the present invention is distinguished from EP '206 clearly. Therefore, the present invention is novel over EP '206.

Obviousness:

The specific modified polyoxyalkylene polyamine of the present invention has advantages in that e.g. it has low viscosity, whereby workability can be improved without using solvents or diluents and it can provide an epoxy resin cured product with excellent chemical resistance when used as an epoxy resin curing agent.

On the other hand, EP '206 provides a method of making a modified polyoxyalkylene polyamides having a plurality of secondary amino groups at the terminal ends of the molecule, which will exhibit excellent reactivity with polyisocyanate compounds compared with the corresponding primary polyoxyalkylene polyamides and therefore, the resulting polyurea products may have excellent properties.

Thus, EP '206 discloses an efficient modification method of a polyoxyalkylene polyamide having primary amino groups to a corresponding novel polyoxyalkylene polyamine having secondary amino groups. It is also described in EP '206 that the modified polyoxyalkylene polyamines obtained by the method of EP '206 are useful as a raw material in the polyurea RIM and the like.

However, EP '206 does not disclose any of the technical effects of the present invention described above, such as the improvement of workability and chemical resistance of an epoxy resin cured product.

If a modified polyoxyalkylene polyamine of the present invention is obtained by using an unsaturated compound having electron-withdrawing groups, the technical effects of the present invention cannot be achieved.

For example, when using an unsaturated compound having ester groups, the reaction of the ester groups with amino groups will be induced during the storage to form amide bonds which will result some change of properties of the products and deterioration of storage stability.

In sum, it is unobvious from EP '206 to modify polyoxyalkylene polyamines using an unsaturated hydrocarbon compound having no electron withdrawing groups and to realize advantageous effects from such modification.

Accordingly, the rejection on EP '206 under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 is untenable.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Respectfully submitted,

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